

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus to add weight to an athletic ball striking bat, having a taper along the bat length, comprising in combination;
 - a) a sleeve sized to extend about the bat at the taper location
 - b) the sleeve having associated retention means to engage the bat at a zone along said taper to resist lengthwise removal of the sleeve off the bat during bat swinging,
 - c) at least one donut shaped weight carried by the sleeve.
2. (canceled) The combination of claim 1 wherein the at least one weight is carried at a location or locations spaced from said zone.
3. (canceled) The combination of claim 1 wherein the at least one weight comprises a loose or flowable material comprising a granular substance such as metallic steel shot, pebbles, beads, seeds, or sand.
4. (canceled) The combination of claim 1 wherein the the at least one weight is dispersed over a plurality of regions.
5. (original) The combination of claim 2 wherein said retention means has an arcuate interior surface to engage said zone at an arcuately spaced location.
6. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein said retention means comprises a plurality of spaced apart retention members.
7. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the support has at least one longitudinally extending expansion slits to accommodate the expansion of the system for different sized implements.

8. (original) The combination of claim 1 including said bat projecting through the sleeve.
9. (canceled) The combination of claim 2 wherein said bat has a handle portion that projects from the sleeve, said zone located between said handle portion and said weight or weights.
10. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein said sleeve is generally cylindrical.
11. (original) The combination of claim 10 wherein said associated means includes an annular retainer at the inner side of the sleeve, and which has an inner surface to engage the bat taper, said inner surface having a configuration which is generally cylindrical and tapered, lengthwise of the sleeve.
12. (currently amended) The combination of claim 11 including at least one pocket carried by the sleeve ~~and receiving said at least one weight.~~
13. (original) The combination of claim 12 including a first device on the sleeve for pulling the sleeve along the bat during assembly of the sleeve to the bat.
14. (original) The combination of claim 13 including a second device on the sleeve for pulling the sleeve along the bat during disassembly of the sleeve off the bat.
15. (original) The combination of claim 13 wherein said device is a first loop at a location near the sleeve and that faces in the direction of sleeve assembly onto the bat.
16. (original) The combination of claim 13 wherein said second device is a loop at a location near the sleeve end that faces in the direction of sleeve disassembly off the bat.
17. (canceled) The combination of claim 1 wherein said weight or weights comprises a deformable mass or masses of material.
18. (canceled) The combination of claim 16 wherein said material is metallic and granular.
19. (original) The combination of claim 16 wherein said at least one pocket is spaced about an axis defined by the sleeve.
20. (canceled) The combination of claim 19 wherein said at least one weight comprises a deformable mass of material.
21. (original) The combination of claim 11 wherein said retainer inner surface is conical shape
22. (original) The combination of claim 12 wherein said at least one pocket is sewn to a sleeve comprising a flexible material.

23. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has a resiliently expansible section to allow sleeve to fit to a bat of larger diameter.
24. (original) The combination of claim 1 including an annular insert in the sleeve, at an end of the sleeve, to block inward bunching of the sleeve end, toward a bat zone.
25. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the insert is proximate the retainer, and consists of lightweight material.
26. (original) The method of affixing a sleeve as defined in claim 1 that includes the following steps
 - i) relatively advancing the sleeve in a first direction onto said bat to position said associated means at said zone along the bat taper,
 - ii) practice swinging the bat, and
 - iii) and subsequently relatively retracting the sleeve off the bat in second direction opposite the first direction.
27. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the sleeve includes inner and outer sleeves, the inner sleeve having a wall that acts as a protector, for the bat.
28. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the retention means includes a retainer carried by the sleeve
29. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the retention means includes a retainer carried by a pocket on the sleeve
30. (original) The combination of claim 1 including a frame carried by the sleeve, the weight or weights carried by the frame.
31. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has end portion defined by flaps which are edge connected to form a reduced diameter sleeve section to closely fit about a bat narrowed sections.
32. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has two sections, one of larger diameter or diameters than the other.
33. (canceled) The combination of claim 1 including additional means associated with the weight or weights to enable selective weight removal or detachment from the sleeve.
34. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the sleeve has inner and outer sections, the sleeve inner section being semi-rigid.

35. (currently amended) A weighting device for use on an athletic ball striker as during swinging of the striker, and including the striker in the form of a baseball bat having a ball striking portion and handle, comprising in combination:
- a) an elongated receptacle having an opening via which the striker ball striking portion is received into the receptacle, with the handle projecting from the receptacle,
 - b) a retainer carried on the receptacle for retaining the receptacle in generally enclosing relation to the striker,
 - c) there being an annularly shaped weight ~~material~~ disposed ~~at annular locations~~ about an axis defined by the striker, and structure ~~disposed about the striker~~ holding said weight ~~material~~ in position relative to the striker.
36. (currently amended) The combination of claim 35 wherein said structure includes a pocket or pockets spaced about the bat ~~and in which said weight material is held at said annularly spaced locations.~~
37. (currently amended) The combination of claim 1 wherein said ~~at least one~~ weight is disposed at an annular location about an axis defined by the bat, there being holder structure disposed about the bat holding said weight ~~material~~ in position relative to the bat.
38. (canceled) A method for fabricating a swinging sport weighted implement practice comprising the following steps:
- (a) sewing an inner wall comprising a fabric layer;
 - (b) inserting a bag of a weighted material into the fabric.
 - (c) applying a rubber coated retainer;
 - (d) applying a layer of a foam;
 - (e) attaching a plurality of cross straps over the foam for added support; and
 - (f) applying at least one additional outer layer comprising a fabric.
39. (canceled) The method of claim 38 further comprising the step of applying an additional layer of a foam.
40. (canceled) The method of claim 39 further comprising the step of applying an additional fabric layer.

41. (canceled) The method of claim 40 comprising the step of applying an additional plastic shield.
42. (original) A weighting device for use on an athletic striker comprising a donut shaped member having an outer fabric casing, an inner fabric casing and being filled with a flowable material.